

U.S. Serial No. 09/746,325

Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information on a plurality of users to a plurality of requestors over the Internet, comprising:

storing information on the plurality of users in a database located on a cookie management system and associating the information with a plurality of keys;

receiving a request at the cookie management system for information on a particular user from a requestor over the Internet;

receiving both a user-supplied password and a key associated with the request at the cookie management system from the requestor over the Internet, the key associated with the request included in a cookie on a machine of the particular user, wherein the key associated with the request was retrieved from the machine of the particular user by the requestor and the machine of the particular user does not have access to the cookie management system, and wherein the user-supplied password is obtained from the particular user by the requestor and grants the requestor permission to use the information on the particular user in the cookie management system;

using both the user-supplied password and the key associated with the request to retrieve the information on the particular user from the database; and

forwarding the information on the particular user to the requestor over the Internet.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein storing information comprises associating a different key for information on each user.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein storing information comprises storing multiple sets of information for at least some of the users with each set of information being associated with a different key.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising checking that the requestor is authorized to obtain the information on that particular user.

36968/248469

U.S. Serial No. 09/746,325
Page 3

5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein forwarding comprises sending the information in XML format.
7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising receiving new information on the user from the requestor and updating the database with the new information.
8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising selecting an available key for a user and supplying the new key to a requestor so that the requestor can store the new key as a cookie on a user's machine.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining information on users, comprising:
receiving at a requestor website a request over the Internet from a user's machine;
retrieving a cookie from the user's machine;
obtaining a key stored as part of the cookie;
receiving a user-supplied password from a user to the requestor website, the password
granting the requestor website permission to use information on the user in a cookie management
system;
sending a query over the Internet from the requestor website to ~~a~~the cookie management system for data associated with ~~that~~the key, the query including ~~both~~ the key retrieved from the cookie ~~and the user-supplied password,~~ wherein the user's machine does not have access to the cookie management system; and
receiving the data associated with the key, wherein the data includes information on the user.
10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein receiving the data comprises receiving the data in XML format.
11. (Canceled)

36968/248469

U.S. Serial No. 09/746,325

Page 4

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising using the data on the user in responding to the user's request.

13. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein retrieving the cookie comprises retrieving a plurality of cookies from the user's machine.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising receiving a request from a second user's machine, checking for a cookie on the second user's machine, sending a query for an available key when the second user's machine does not contain any cookie, and placing the cookie with the available key on the second user's machine.

15. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising obtaining new information on the user and sending the new information and the key over the Internet.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for storing information on a plurality of users and for providing the information to a plurality of requestors, comprising:

a database for storing information on the plurality of users and for associating the information with a plurality of keys;

a cookie management system for receiving a request over the Internet from a requestor for information on a particular user, the request including both a user-supplied password and a key stored as part of a cookie on a machine of the particular user, wherein the key associated with the request was retrieved from the machine of the particular user by the requestor, and wherein the user-supplied password is obtained from the particular user by the requestor and grants the requestor permission to use the information on the particular user at the cookie management system; and

a retrieval unit for receiving the key and the user-supplied password and for retrieving the information associated with that key;

wherein the cookie management system obtains the information from the retrieval unit and forwards the information on the particular user to the requestor and the machine of the particular user does not have access to the cookie management system.

36968/248469

U.S. Serial No. 09/746,325
Page 5

17. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising a key assignor for assigning available keys to new users in the database.

18. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising an update unit for storing new information on users in the database.

19. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising a verifier for verifying that the requestor is authorized to receive the information on the particular user.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the cookie management system forwards the information on the particular user to the requestor in XML format.

21. (Newly Added) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein associating the information with a plurality of keys includes associating the information with the plurality of keys according to different categories or levels of the information on the particular user and the method further comprises:

receiving a plurality of the user-supplied passwords, each corresponding to each of the keys; and

using only the user-supplied passwords to retrieve the information on the particular user from the database, wherein the user-supplied passwords correspond to an amount and type of the information that the particular user wants to the requestor to have.

22. (Newly Added) The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

associating information on the user with a plurality of the cookies according to different categories or levels of data on the user;

receiving a plurality of the user-supplied passwords, each corresponding to each of the cookies; and

36963/248/69

U.S. Serial No. 09/746,325
Page 6

receiving the data associated with the user-supplied passwords, wherein the user-supplied passwords correspond to an amount and type of the information that the user wants to the requestor to have.

23. (Newly Added) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the database associates the information with the plurality of keys according to different categories or levels of the information on the particular user;

wherein the cookie management system further receives a plurality of the user-supplied passwords, each corresponding to each of the keys; and

wherein the retrieval unit receives only the user-supplied passwords to retrieve the information associated with the user-supplied passwords, the user-supplied passwords corresponded to an amount and type of the information that the particular user wants to the requestor to have.